

PATENT CLAIMS

1. A proctoscope comprising a proctoscope body (12, 16, 20) which is preferably hollow-cylindrical and is designed to be inserted into a patient's anus, said proctoscope body having a tapering at a distal end portion, an opening (18) at the other end and also a handle portion (14), wherein the proctoscope body has a hole designed to form an operation window (22) toward a free interior space of the proctoscope body, and means (28, 32) for illuminating the operation window and/or means (24) for detecting vessels by means of sensors, in particular by means of ultrasound, may be provided in the proctoscope body, characterized in that the operation window (22) is formed in the outer wall of the proctoscope body such that it extends into the tapering distal end portion (20).

2. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized by a manually operable obturator (36) which is designed for insertable cooperation with the proctoscope body and is adapted to the free interior space such that, when the obturator is inserted into the proctoscope body through the opening (18), a closure portion (46) of the obturator closes off the operation window (22) on the inside and preferably completely.

3. The device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the obturator has a handle portion (42) which in the inserted state protrudes out of the opening, and the closure portion (46) is designed as a tongue-like extension of an essentially cylindrical obturator casing (38).

4. The device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the operation window (22) is formed as a cut-out in the hollow-cylindrical proctoscope body and in the tapering distal end portion.

5. The device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the operation window opens up a free hole area of 350 to 400 mm² in the outer wall of the proctoscope body.

6. The device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that a duplex or ultrasound sensor (24) is permanently installed in a wall portion of the proctoscope body adjacent to the operation window, it being possible for said sensor to be connected to vessel detection electronics provided outside the casing of the proctoscope body.

7. The device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the handle portion is designed as a grip (14) at the opening end of the proctoscope body, said grip being angled with respect to the proctoscope body and preferably forming a hollow space for the passage of supply lines (26) for the illuminating and/or vessel detection means and further preferably indicating a circumferential position of the vessel detection means on the proctoscope body.

8. The device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that lighting means (32) which are directed onto the operation window and in particular can be adjusted are provided in the tapering end portion.

9. The device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that a mirror and/or reflector element (30) is provided in the tapering end portion such that an observer can see the operation window (22) from the opening (18).

10. The device as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the mirror and/or reflector element (30) is designed to be light-permeable to a lighting means (32) provided behind it.

11. A method of operating the proctoscope as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10, characterized by the steps:

- closing the operation window in the proctoscope body;
- inserting the proctoscope body into a patient's anus;
- detecting blood vessels by means of ultrasound Doppler sonography and orienting the proctoscope body in reaction to the detection;
- opening the operation window.